

Panel OKs JFK papers release

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WASHINGTON (AP) — A House panel unanimously approved legislation Thursday to release secret records dealing with the assassination of President Kennedy. Whether the documents hold new information remains to be seen.

The Judiciary Committee's economic and commercial law subcommittee gave the legislation its first favorable vote after defeating two Republican amendments that would have increased executive branch control over government secrets.

The bill would set up a judicially appointed citizens review board to

examine all the secret government material on the assassination and recommend which should be released. The president could withhold documents on national security or privacy grounds.

The mountain of secret material, held by Congress, federal agencies, libraries and archives, contains everything from autopsy photographs and top secret intelligence reports to newspaper clippings and tax returns.

Scholars, journalists and assassination experts will surely pore over the secret assassination records as they become public.